

Wooley is the students' voice

Senior serves as liaison to school committee

By Ruth Thompson
CORRESPONDENT

High school students have a voice on the school committee.

Senior Sarah Wooley has been chosen as the representative for her fellow students, and will attend school committee meetings as a way to share information and keep students and committee members aware of what's going on in each respective area of the school community.

"Basically, I'm just going to let the school committee know what's going on in our school, and if they have any student-related questions they can get my opinion and I can ask the other students what they think as well," Wooley said.

Wooley recently polled some of her classmates for their input on the potential for later start times at the high school. School committee members have decided to take a closer look at the possibility of starting classes later, and in her first meeting as the student liaison, Wooley said the students she spoke with were all in favor of the later start time.

"I think it's a good thing to let the students know what's going on with the school committee so students know what's going on and what's going to affect them," Wooley said. "And to let the school committee know what's going on in the school."

Wooley, who is president of her class and has been class president for all four years of high school, said Duxbury High School Principal Andrew Stephens asked her if she would be interested in attending the school committee meetings on behalf of the student body.

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Sarah Wooley

"At first I wasn't too enthused," Wooley admitted. "But it wasn't as bad as I thought."

Wooley is used to being involved with school activities. In addition to being class president, she is secretary of the executive board of the student council, a member of the National Honor Society, publicity chair for the school's SADD chapter and a member of the Link Crew, a program designed to help freshmen get oriented in their new school.

"My freshman year was the first year they ran it," Wooley said.

Wooley, a native of Hanover who moved to Duxbury when she was in fifth grade, said she has always been involved with her schools.

"I was part of the student council when I was in middle school," she said. "When you get to high school, there's so much more to do and be part of."

And that would include athletics.

"I'm definitely a sports person," Wooley said. "I was captain of the varsity soccer team this year and I play on several club teams."

On weekends, she even referees soccer at the South Shore Sports Center in Hingham for children through age 14. It's no wonder she intends to pursue a career where sports play a major role.

"My main objective is to be a sports psychologist and a physical therapist," she said. "If someone gets injured, I'll be able to help them physically and then help them to get back into the game mentally. I know Tiger Woods has his own sports psychologist and physical therapist."

Wooley has already received her acceptance letter and academic and sports scholarships to Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., near Albany, where she said she plans on obtaining an undergraduate degree in psychology. Beyond that, she said she would go for a master's degree in physical therapy at the Sage Graduate School in Troy, N.Y.

Wooley credits her parents David and Stephanie for encouraging her in her various pursuits.

"They definitely support me," she said. "I wouldn't be able to do any of this without them."

While she said her mother "set the structures," both parents were constantly driving her to her different activities.

"It's probably a good thing I have my own car," she said.

Wooley also said Daniel Riley, a video production teacher, was an inspiration to her academically.

"I'd go to him for moral support, that sort of thing," she said. "I met him my freshman year. He's seen me go through the years and he knows how hard I worked for everything I got."

Wooley said Riley left the school system at the end of the first term this year for a job with the fledgling Plymouth Rock Studios.

"It was hard when he left," she

said. "I cried, but I'm happy for him and for what he's doing."

When she's not leading her class or her soccer team on the field, Wooley said she enjoys hanging out with her friends and shopping.

"I'm pretty cheap," she said, adding she often visits Marshalls for its discounts. "I like shopping but not spending money."

As big sister to Rachel, 13, whom Wooley said is a good student and a big Irish step dancer, her advice for students making their way through the school system is to get involved.

"Do as much as you can," she said. "You only go through this once. You get to meet so many people and make so many friends. I'm friends with people in all different groups. It's great."

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STAFF PHOTO/CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Duxbury High School senior Sarah Wooley is the students' liaison to the school committee.
